

CenturyLink

Room 3162 14111 Capital Boulevard Wake Forest, NC 27587 Phone 919-554-7621 Facsimile 919-554-7913 Jeanne.W.Stockman@centurylink.com

Jeanne W. Stockman Senior Counsel

September 11, 2018

## **VIA ECFS**

Marlene Dortch, Secretary Federal Communications Commission 445 12th Street, S.W. Washington, DC 20554

Re: Notice of Ex Parte Meeting

Reliability and Continuity of Communications Networks, Including

Broadband Technologies, PS Docket No. 11-60

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On September 10, 2018, Jeanne Stockman and Stacy Hartman of CenturyLink participated in a conference call with Renee Roland of the Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau to discuss issues raised in the above-referenced docket concerning wireless backhaul providers. CenturyLink explained its position that it is not necessary to extend the Wireless Network Resiliency Cooperative Framework ("Framework") to wireless backhaul providers. CenturyLink understands there were challenges getting real-time information following Hurricanes Irma and Maria, but understands those challenges were attributable to the unique circumstances of those natural disasters and do not warrant changes to the Framework.

CenturyLink described how information sharing during disaster events is currently managed by the National Coordinating Center for Communications ("NCC") Emergency Support Function #2 process. This process facilitates coordination with telecommunications and information technology industries regarding restoration and repair of telecommunications infrastructure, protection, restoration, and sustainment of national cyber and information technology resources, and oversight of communications within the Federal incident management and response structures. This process already includes the exchange of backhaul information and has proven effective.

CenturyLink also explained that backhaul providers work together in a variety of government and industry-sponsored forums to develop and agree on best practices; as well as to discuss post-event network performance, disaster recovery and lessons learned. The Commission should continue to encourage and support such efforts through the Communications Security, Reliability and Interoperability Council ("CSRIC"), ATIS's Network Reliability Steering Committee ("NRSC"), and the NCC. CenturyLink suggested that CTIA and the NRSC

Marlene Dortch, Secretary September 11, 2018 Page 2 of 2

could coordinate to identify whether there are any best practices gaps for wireless backhaul providers, and if so, then work through the CSRIC process to address them.

Pursuant to Section 1.1206 of the Commission's rules, 47 C.F.R. § 1.1206, an electronic copy of this letter is being filed in the above-referenced docket. If you have any questions, please contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Jeanne W. Stockman

cc: Renee Roland (via e-mail)